



KSU student Jabreia Taylor named White House Initiative HBCU All-Star

Jabreia Taylor, a political science and honors liberal studies major at Kentucky State University (KSU), has been selected as a 2016 HBCU All-Star by the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The All-Stars, comprised of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, are being recognized for their accomplishments in academics, leadership and civic engagement.

The St. Louis, Missouri, native already has a history of civic engagement and leadership on KSU's campus. Taylor applied to the program with an initiative that she has felt passionately about for some time: combatting dating violence and human sex trafficking. Last year, she organized a workshop on the topic that was held in Kentucky Hall at Kentucky State. She intends to combat this issue in her career as a district attorney.

"It is my goal to bring more seminars here this year and work hand in hand with Dean Daryl Lowe and introduce it more to the student body," Taylor said. "My main goal is to bring awareness to dating violence and more of a structure to it -- instead of 'Oh, it doesn't happen to everyone or it doesn't happen on this university's campus.'"

Over the next year, the All-Star students will serve as ambassadors by providing outreach opportunities and communicating with other students about the value of both education and networking. Using social media, relationships with community-based organizations, and sessions with industry professionals, the students will share proven practices that support opportunities for all young people to achieve their educational and career potential.

They will also participate in the White House HBCU Week Conference, national and regional events, and webinars with Initiative staff and other professionals on a range of disciplines that support a spirit of engagement and personal and professional development.

"As the vice president of the Pre-Law Society, the president of the Alpha Pi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Chief of Staff of the Student Government Associ-



Jabreia Taylor

ation (SGA), I want to help join those organizations for an Awareness Day or Awareness Week," she said. "That is what an HBCU All-Star is all about; taking what you want to do and putting it into play on your own campus."

Taylor said that she was inspired by survivors who have confided in her about dating violence, but they never took a legal route.

"I found myself wanting to help them even more. I thought, 'How far can social work go? Or, how much does this counseling help?'"

she said. "I would rather be the voice that you have had stolen from you in a courtroom and help you battle it to the end."

KSU associate professor and Interim Chair of the Whitney Young Honors Dr. Cynthia Shelton will serve as Taylor's campus liaison, Taylor said. Dr. Shelton helped to recommend Taylor to the All-Star initiative.

"I immediately recognized Ms. Taylor's exceptional initiative and leadership potential inside and outside the classroom," Dr. Shelton said. "Honestly, she is an educator's dream student, and I'm very pleased she has been awarded this prestigious honor. She will represent us well."

This is the third class of All-Stars, according to U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. SGA president Ralph Williams was previously selected as an HBCU All-Star in 2015.

The All-Stars were chosen from over 300 students from 24 states, the District of Columbia, Ghana, Nigeria, and the Virgin Islands. They will work together and as a group and network with one another to achieve their goals.

"We're looking forward to working with this new class of HBCU All-Stars," said Deputy Under Secretary of Education and Acting Executive Director White House Initiative on HBCUs Kim Hunter Reed. "Our goal is to provide a unique opportunity for these talented students that exposes them to critical national conversations and thought leaders. No doubt they will make their mark and represent their campuses well."

The Fourth International Pawpaw Conference Held at Kentucky State University

The Fourth International Pawpaw Conference was held at the Kentucky State University campus in Frankfort and at KSU's Center for the Sustainability of Farms and Families at the Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration farm on September 1-3. The conference celebrated the 100th anniversary of the American Genetics Association's 1916 Best Pawpaw Contest.

More than 160 attendees traveled from 19 states and from as far away as Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Canada, The Netherlands, and Romania to attend the event. The conference provided a unique experience for scientists, nurserymen, entrepreneurs, and enthusiasts to consider 100 years of progress in pawpaw growing and research by sharing information on the production and uses of pawpaw. Tours, tastings, invited speakers, a best pawpaw contest, and roundtable discussions on pawpaw were featured.

"I learned a lot and enjoyed tasting paw paws, meeting other enthusiasts, and seeing the KSU program," said Allison Williams, a conference attendee from Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

In honor of the American Genetics Association's 1916 Best Pawpaw Contest, attendees entered pawpaw selections from around the region. The Susquehanna pawpaw variety was awarded the Best Pawpaw entry for the conference.

During the conference, Kentucky State University also announced the release of a new pawpaw variety, KSU-Benson™,

named in honor of Dr. Harold R. Benson, who served for 36 years as the KSU Director of Land Grant Programs and strongly supported Kentucky agriculture and the development of pawpaw programming at KSU during his tenure.

Adam Hughes, from Athens, Ohio, summed what a number of people were saying about the conference. "I just want to thank (KSU Pawpaw Program members Dr. Kirk Pomper, Sheri Crabtree and Jeremy Lowe) and your team at KSU for the extraordinary event you all put together to discuss and celebrate the pawpaw."

The conference was sponsored by Kentucky State University, the North American Pawpaw Growers Association, and the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association. Recordings of the presentations will soon be available on the KSU pawpaw website, pawpaw.kysu.edu.



Kentucky State University Announces Free E-textbooks for Students

FRANKFORT, KY—Kentucky State University (KSU) is making college more affordable for students. KSU has partnered with Pearson, a global learning company, to offer e-textbooks to all KSU students for a flat fee. And to make things even better, Kentucky State University is providing a book scholarship to every student, which means the books are free.

"Some traditional textbooks can cost anywhere from \$100 to \$300 apiece. And the fact is, some students simply cannot afford to buy all the textbooks required for their course load," said Aaron Thompson, PhD, interim president, Kentucky State University. "We want our students to be successful, and numerous studies have shown that if students do not have their books during the first few days of school, their success rate is seriously diminished."

While many institutions have leveraged digital course materials delivery models at the individual course level, Kentucky State is one of only two institutions in the country and is the only institution in Kentucky currently working with Pearson to deliver course materials digitally college-wide, to

undergraduate to graduate level students.

"We want to ensure that all our students have equitable access to required course materials the very first day they walk into the classroom, said Candice Jackson, PhD., acting vice president for Academic Affairs, Kentucky State University. "If a student does not own a computer, not to worry. Students can choose to rent a computer for a small use fee, or the university offers free computer at convenient locations all over campus which includes, dorms, computer labs and the library."

Kentucky State University also recognizes that providing comprehensive support both inside and outside the classroom is a key to student success. To provide students with crucial academic and technical support, KSU has created technical help desk and Smarthinking online tutoring services part of its partnership with Pearson.

"There are some outstanding things happening at Kentucky State University and this is one of them," said Thompson. "We are thrilled to be able to offer the free electronic textbooks to our students."